Open Forum

January 21 & January 22, 2021
What We Know

- NFCYM is planning for gathered event November 18-20, 2021 in Indianapolis.
- Moving to ticket sales vs. traditional registration, and tickets slated to go on sale in February.
- Room block requests scheduled to open in February.
- Our diocesan buses reserved with Tri-State
- More details from NFCYM should be available at the Annual Membership Meeting during 1st week of February.
- Diocesan plans & details for NCYC released by end of February.
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

• Number of Surveys received: 32 surveys
• Number of parishes represented by surveys: 31
• Breakdown of surveys by deanery:
  • Clinton: 4
  • Davenport: 5
  • Grinnell: 4
  • Iowa City: 10
  • Keokuk: 5
  • Ottumwa: 3
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

1. Likelihood of participating in NCYC 2021

• Definitely will – 9 (28%)
• Might – 12 (37%)
• Definitely will not – 7 (22%)
• Not enough information to make a choice – 4 (13%)
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

2. Definitely Will – 9 parishes (28%)

• What is your best estimate of the total combined number of youth and adults you might have in your group?

234
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

3. Might – 12 parishes (37%)

• *What would move you to “We definitely will?”*
  • COVID-19
    • More certainty around the situation/decreases in cases
    • Pandemic is under control
    • Vaccine (available to all; increase in vaccination rate, proof of vaccination required)
    • Safety & health guidelines/precautions (knowing what will be in place, can ensure health/safety of all/compliance required)

• Interest level
  • Knowing if there’s interest in going
  • Will parents be willing to let child gather in large group event?
DiocesanNCYC Interest Survey Results

3. Might – 12 parishes (37%)
   • *What would move you to “We definitely will?”*
     • Finances
       • Knowing if parents are willing to pay for the event
       • Having clear rules for refunds if parents not comfortable with safety precautions
     • Reduction of political unrest
     • Assurance of no cancellation by diocese/NFCYM
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

4. Definitely will not – 7 parishes (22%)
   • Please share all the reasons why.
     • COVID-related
       • Uncertainty if vaccine will affect the spread of the virus
       • Packing buses for the trip
       • Don’t think a mass gathering of youth is a good thing, even with vaccines
     • Leadership issues
       • No one to lead this effort up in parish
       • Past leader’s schedule changed and can’t get time off work
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

4. Definitely will not – 7 parishes (22%)
   - *Please share all the reasons why.*
     - Finances
       - The actual cost itself – expensive
       - Ability to fundraise to cover the cost
     - No interest in the parish
DiocesanNCYCInterestSurveyResults

5. Not enough information to make a choice – 4 (13%)

• *What specific information do you need in order to be able to make your decision?*
  • COVID-related
    • Status of the virus (#’s in next few months) & limitations it would cause
    • Status of vaccinations (effectiveness, availability, accessibility)
  • Finances
    • More details on the actual cost
    • Payment timeline
  • Will diocese organize to go?
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

6. What are the concerns, obstacles, challenges you/group leaders will face in organizing and leading a group?
   • COVID-related
     • Restrictions/regulations
     • Direction the virus is moving
     • Testing
     • Vaccine distribution
     • Fear of COVID
   • Health & safety
     • Trust that precautions will be taken
     • Maintaining health/sanitation safety measures
     • Keeping everyone safe and healthy
     • Attendees from all over the country putting immunocompromised at risk
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

6. What are the concerns, obstacles, challenges you/group leaders will face in organizing and leading a group?

- Finances
  - Fundraising
  - Refund policy
- Numbers
  - “Haven’t seen my kids since March.”
  - No members
  - Not many high school students and no youth group
  - Declining number of youth involved
6. What are the concerns, obstacles, challenges you/group leaders will face in organizing and leading a group?

- Chaperones – not knowing which leaders are coming or willing to go
- Families – aren’t making faith a priority
- Conflicts – with school activities
- Paperwork – permission slips
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

7. *What concerns you most about participating in a gathered NCYC?*

- **COVID**
  - What the situation will be in November
  - Could be a super spreader event
- **Safety**
  - Travel, housing, event venue
  - Knowing precautions being put in place from NFCYM & diocese (buses, hotel, etc.)
  - Limitations that limit restaurants, people, etc.
  - Of chaperones
- **Social distancing**
  - Too many bodies in one place
  - Exposure to people who may not be following protocols
  - Asymptomatic carries exposing others/bring exposure back home
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

7. *What concerns you most about participating in a gathered NCYC?*

- **Vaccine**
  - Will there be a mandate to have it?
  - Don't know where vaccinations will be by November
  - Not comfortable going until I am fully vaccinated
  - How do we plan for those who choose not to receive vaccination and still want to participate?
  - If vaccinations mandated, my group would not participate

- **Attitudes**
  - political destabilization & whether that might affect safety
  - different opinions/views about seriousness of virus
7. What concerns you most about participating in a gathered NCYC?

- Miscellaneous
  - Starting planning a little late
    - being able to raise funds/having confidence to make financial commitment
    - Lack of interest from parents of kids
  - If NCYC is small, lack of "power in numbers."
  - Amount of autonomy given youth during conference and having difficult time ensuring all are following safety measures
  - Leaving my family alone for a week
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

7. *What concerns you most about participating in a gathered NCYC?*
   - No concerns. Need to move forward
   - This is a bad idea.
     - If social distancing is still recommended by CDC, no way we can go as diocese (bus travel, hotels rooms, lots of people cramming hallways at convention center
     - Need to operate under assumption pandemic will still be going on. Given that, responsible thing is not to go.
     - If we still need to follow present guidelines, why risk a super spreader event?
     - It’s hard to imagine a socially distanced NCYC
     - Social distancing with that large of a group – there’s been no social distancing at past NCYCs
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

8. Recommendations for the diocesan team/what to keep in mind.

- Good & up-to-date communication with leaders.
  - Weekly updates with extreme transparency & clear communication
  - Be clear in what’s flexible and not flexible
  - Provide information ASAP
    - Reservations and requirements
    - Mitigation plans for travel and at the event
- Help with Fundraising
  - Creative help with fundraising (shared cost models, link with a parish)
  - Provide creative ideas to bring the cost down
- Flexible & Realistic Timeline
  - We’re all dealing with shortened planning timelines
  - Still more unknowns than knowns, and it will take a long time for answers to become clear
  - Be flexible in planning, making it work in a tighter timeframe
8. **Recommendations for the diocesan team/what to keep in mind.**

- Miscellaneous
  - If there's no gathered option, what *alternatives* could be offered?
  - Get *definite answers before* we do a lot of dreaming/guessing.
  - Have *plans in place* to assist with rapidly changing circumstances (flexibility with deadlines, refunds, etc.)
  - Advance *payment schedules* may not be effective this year
  - Help to make NCYC *less overwhelming*
  - *Creative help with fundraising* (shared cost models, link with a parish)
  - *Reconsider food restrictions* at CC
  - Don't lose the sense of *"encounter with Christ"* personally & communally. If this isn't there, then don't do NCYC this year.
8. Recommendations for the diocesan team/what to keep in mind.

- Miscellaneous (continued)
  - May take different planning steps than previously used. **Be flexible.** Plan may need to be changed during process
  - If it's to happen, strict **adherence to protocols** must be enforced
  - **Don't panic** and start putting too many restrictions

- Shouldn’t do this
  - Think it's kind of irresponsible for NFCYM to try to make this happen
  - Don't think we should be planning to attend
  - Not interested in a virtual NCYC
Diocesan NCYC Interest Survey Results

8. Recommendations for the diocesan team/what to keep in mind.

A Closing Thought

So much has been taken from these students on a much smaller scale in this past year (because it was deemed unsafe) that it seems like a huge NCYC gathering is unrealistic to even be discussing at this time. How can we pull students back into regular and committed relationship with their church and faith community after all the social distancing we have been practicing? NCYC seems like such a big step after everything we have been going through. What can be done on a smaller scale to still meet students faith needs?